

# Asian bag mussel

Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23 if you see this species



## Asian bag mussel (*Arcuatula senhousia*)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Asian bag mussels in Queensland.
- Asian bag mussels can dominate seabed communities and exclude native species.
- They have a smooth, thin, fragile shell, which is olive green to brown in colour.
- They have an exterior shell pattern of dark zigzag markings and radiating ridges.
- They have an interior shell pattern of wavy purple to red zigzag lines and high lustre.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

### Description

Asian bag mussels (also known as Asian mussels or Asian date mussels) are small mussels with a maximum length of 3 cm and maximum width of 1.2 cm. Their olive green to brown shell is smooth, thin and fragile. The shells of Asian bag mussels have dark zigzag markings and radiating ridges.

Asian bag mussels cluster together in soft substrates (usually sandflats/mudflats) in intertidal to subtidal habitats, but have also been known to foul hard substrates (such as ships' hulls). In soft substrates, each mussel constructs a cocoon to protect its fragile shell. These cocoons form a continuous 'mat' on the sediment.

### Pest risk

The Asian bag mussel is a prohibited marine animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**.

Asian bag mussels burrow into sediments and produces protective cocoon that joins with cocoons of neighbouring mussels to form dense mat. Mats of mussels can dramatically alter physical, chemical and biological characteristics of natural seafloor habitat.

### What should I do?

Slipway operators, vessels inspectors and vessel owners should regularly and thoroughly check and clean vessel hulls and niche areas such as internal seawater systems.

If you think you have seen Asian bag mussels, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Asian bag mussels from spreading.

### Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

